



Ryan Matura Library Faculty Newsletter

The Lede: What are Open Educational Resources?

Number 8, March 2016

“Open” educational resources (OER) have been in the news –in particular, textbooks. Traditional, copy-righted textbooks cost more and more for many stu-dents, and consequently students do not purchase them (even if required), or rent them (but cannot mark them up).



OER logo from <https://commons.wikimedia.org>

“Open” educational resources are openly licensed. They can be legally copied, re-edited, and distribut-ed as an alternative to resources of any kind -- especially textbooks. Typically they are licensed under alternative arrangements such as a [Creative Commons license](#). Creative Commons is not a da-tabase, but an organization that provides ready-made licenses that restrict copying and re-use less than the “all rights reserved” terms of standard inter-national copyright. While all legal questions about such licensing have not be settled conclusively, enough has been published and distributed already that patterns and expectations have emerged. The kinds of intellectual and professional credit and recognition that open text authors receive are also developing but not yet settled.

“Open” textbooks are distributed digitally and by in-tention can be printed and copied freely. Sometimes they can also be printed and distributed “at cost” of printing, since often students like a paper text that they can mark up.

Several models have emerged from open resource and textbook initiatives. [OpenStax College](#) is a plat-form developed and maintained by Rice University that provides textbooks for introductory (“101”) courses in subjects such as sociology, statistics, macroeconomics, and pre-calculus. [Lumen Learn-ing](#) provides not only the content, but also help with collaboration, platform support, and assessment of OER and assistance with transition to open courseware.

Conversation about OER at SHU is just beginning. OER have been spearheaded by community colleg-es and public land-grant universities, as well as sup-ported by such well-known organizations as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the [William and Flora Hewlett Foundation](#).

Newsletter Spotlight

Research Overview

[Business Research](#)
[Education Research](#)
[Health Sciences Research](#)
[Social Sciences Research](#)
[Science Research](#)
[Humanities Research](#)

Image of BrowZine shelf with downloaded documents

[Browzine](#) is a web site and [iOS, Android, and Kindle FireHD](#) app that enables you to browse, read, and monitor the Library’s digital journals. A secure ser-vice, it will remember settings and list of journals (“my bookshelf”) and identify which issues of a journal are available to you. You can build one or more reading lists and share those with colleagues and students. Browzine restores the sense of the library’s “journals reading room” of past years, but in a digital format, and enables quickly scanning journal issues and ta-bles of contents. You can use Browzine on the de-vice of your choice –tablet or laptop/desktop (through your browser). The apps can be downloaded from the iTunes Store or Google Play.

A Service You Should Know About: Liaison Librarians

Every department and program at SHU has a liai-son librarian –a library professional who can help you with resource selection, bibliography, class-room instruction, library technology help, and library trouble-shooting. A complete list of liaison librarians can be found [here on the library’s website](#). You can also contact the reference service:

- 203-371-7726
reference@sacredheart.edu
- text 203-490-4500
ask online via libanswers.sacredheart.edu

Library Links

[Library Website](#)
[Library Catalog](#)
[Digital Commons](#)
[Patent & Trademark](#)
[Resource Center](#)
[Library Faculty Ser-vices](#)

REFERENCE LIBRARIANS

[Robert Berry](#):
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Sciences,
203-365-4842

[Libby Knapik](#):
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[Nancy DelVecchio](#):
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[Kim Macomber](#):
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and User Services
203-371-7746

[Gavin Ferriby](#):
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203-396-8283

[Daniel Fitzroy](#):
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Librarian
203-371-7749

[Jeff Orrico](#):
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203-365-4841

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